



## Project outcome brief

December 2020

# Gender and adoption of improved livestock production technologies

## Background

Small-scale farmers in Mozambique raise cattle for animal traction, income generation and use in traditional ceremonies. However, they face a cyclical problem due to lack of pasture during the dry and flood seasons. These challenges have become frequent due to climate change and prevalence of livestock diseases, mainly those transmitted by ticks.

In order to mitigate the effect of these phenomena, improve family income as well as livestock production and productivity, the government of Mozambique initiated the project for development of value chains in the Limpopo and Maputo corridors (PROSUL). PROSUL is one of the projects of the Government of Mozambique, financed by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), to develop three value chains—cassava, horticulture and red meat. Training of breeders in improved animal production technologies that include food, health and reproductive management was one of the core activities under the project.

## Contribution of PROSUL project in the adoption of technologies

The PROSUL team provided local breeders and farmers with training in livestock feed preservation techniques and disease control. These included production of hay blocks, multivitamin feeds and silage conservation for supplementing during the dry seasons.

## Case study of PROSUL project contributions

Angélica Tembe, a widow and mother of two daughters, is one of those who benefitted from the training provided by PROSUL. Following the death of her husband, Tembe inherited 168 heads of cattle. One of the major concerns she had was how to adequately feed the herd due to lack of pasture during the dry seasons, in addition to diseases. Her problems were compounded by the low prices offered when she tried to sell the cattle. During dry seasons, cattle have poor body condition and do not fetch good prices in the market. To add on to this, she also raises goats, sheep, and grows vegetables as a supplemental source of income.

All these activities require special attention, especially during the dry spells.

## Tembe's adoption of improved technologies

Tembe was one of those selected to participate in an innovation platform (IP) that was initiated at Manhiça district. An IP is a forum that brings together key actors in a value chain. For the red meat value chain, key actors include breeders, cattle buyers/butchers, local government, community leaders, veterinary service providers, agricultural researchers and local slaughterhouse operators, among others.



Angélica Tembe, the woman holding the bull by its horns (photo credit: ILRI)

The participants were trained on the establishment and adoption of forage bank technology. Forage bank is a reserve of green forage rich in proteins and vitamins used to supplement animal feed during the dry seasons.

During one of the innovation platform sessions, Tembe learnt about cultivation of fodder as one of the solutions to animal food shortages and use of sanitary management for the reduction of mortality due to disease. She resolved to apply the knowledge acquired and reserved one hectare of land where she planted leucaena, mucuna, mulberry, moringa and elephant grass. In addition, she also received training as a livestock health promoter and is now qualified to treat basic diseases that affect her cattle and those in the community.

## Tembe's view of the Prosul project technology adoption initiative

'I am now reaping the benefits of using improved livestock production technologies. In 2017, I did not register any livestock mortality since I was giving regular water and supplementing the cattle feed without waiting for the dry season. In 2018, I sold 27 cattle, where on average each animal had 450 kg live weight versus 350 kg before using this practice. From this, I sold the animals and received MZN972,000 because the Matama slaughterhouse offered MZN80.00/kg of live weight. I invested this amount in the production of vegetables, livestock feed and purchase of veterinary supplies for my cattle. I also advanced in the work of a health promoter in order to supplement my sources of income'.

## Tembe's advice on how to overcome the barrier of access to credit

Despite her willingness and motivation to do things differently, Tembe cites difficulties faced in accessing subsidized credit to invest in livestock production. 'Many banks charge high interest rates on their loans and do not accept collateral with livestock or machamba', she said. However, with improved feeds and better animal disease control, she is now able to fetch better prices for her cattle. With this money, she can meet her farm's financial needs. She now advises other farmers and breeders to take up the livestock production technologies introduced by the PROSUL project as one of the ways to improve access to finances.

Cover photo: ILRI/Stevie Mann

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